

Rural District of Warwick

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

HEALTH OF THE DISTRICT

FOR THE YEAR 1949,

BY

H. GIBBONS WARD, M.D., D.P.H.,

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

OF THE

Warwickshire Combined Districts.

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July, 1950.

To the Council of the Rural District of Warwick.

Mr. CHAIRMAN, LADIES and GENTLEMEN,

I submit for your consideration a Report on the health of the District for 1949, this is my 31st Annual Report and will be my last.

During my period of office there have been vast changes in the work of the Public Health Department, the most notable change is in the number of services which are available and for certain sections of the community, essential; the tendency is, however, for certain people to depend too much on the Local Authority, and too little on their own efforts, to improve conditions.

The housing shortage is, to my mind, the source of many of our troubles, and I have on many occasions expressed the opinion, which I still have no reason to vary, that Housing and Food are two basic necessities besides which schemes for New Schools and so called Free Doctoring, desirable as they maybe, should be secondary considerations.

I am most grateful to the members of the various Councils I have had the honour and pleasure to serve, for their invariable kindness to me, and I shall carry away with me very pleasant memories of that kindness.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

H. GIBBONS WARD,

Medical Officer of Health.

Warwick Rural District.

A. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Population (estimated) Mid-year, 1949	...	...	19,420
Birth Rate	...	...	13.6
Still Birth Rate—Rate per 1,000 total births	...	...	19
Death Rate	...	...	9.5
Deaths from Diseases and Accidents of Pregnancy and Child-birth	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <div style="font-size: 2em; margin-right: 10px;">{</div> <div> From Sepsis ... ,, other causes ... </div> </div>		—
Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age :—			
All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	57
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	46
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	154
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	—
,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	—
,, Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	—

Population.—19,420 ; this estimate is 310 less than the figure given by the Registrar General for 1948.

Birth Rate.—13.6 per 1,000 is lower than that for 1948, and much less than the figure for England and Wales for 1949, which was 16.7 per 1,000.

Death Rate.—9.5 per 1,000, less than the figure for England and Wales, viz. 11.7 per 1,000. It is interesting to note that in 1949 there was an increase in the number of deaths from Heart and Circulatory defects, and a decrease in the number of deaths due to Cancer. This is contrary to the experience during the past few years.

Infantile Mortality.—57 per 1,000 births, much greater than the England and Wales figure for 1949 ; 32 per 1,000 births. It is interesting to note that 11 out of the 15 deaths in infants under 1 year, were due to premature birth or congenital conditions.

Details of statistics for the past few years, together with those for England and Wales in 1949, are given in Table II.

B. GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

(a) Public Health Officers.

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

E. ARTHUR LYNE, Cert. Sanitary Inspector,
Cert. Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.

Additional Sanitary Inspector.

F. SPENCER, Cert. Sanitary Inspector.

2. (a) *Laboratory Facilities*.—Bacteriological examinations by The Public Health Laboratory Service, Coventry :

		Positive		Negative		Total
Diphtheria	...	—	...	22	...	22
Enteric Fever	...	—	...	—	...	—
Tuberculosis	...	—	...	1	...	1
						—
						23
						—

C. SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) *Water*.—The two sources of public supply of water, Whitnash and Radford, have continued to be satisfactory as to quality and as to quantity for immediate purposes. The Borough of Leamington is being supplied from these schemes at the rate of about 3 million gallons per month. Both supplies are chlorinated.

(ii) Samples for bacteriological and Chemical examination of both treated and untreated water have been taken, and have been satisfactory. Samples have also been taken from public supplies in parishes where the Council is not the water supply authority, and in each case the samples have proved upon analyses, to be satisfactory.

PUBLIC WATER SUPPLIES ANALYSIS RESULTS

Results expressed in parts per 100,000

		<i>Radford</i>	<i>Whitnash</i>
Free and Saline Ammonia	...	0.000	0.0000
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	0.000	0.0000
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	2.5	3.6
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	... ..	0.27	1.0
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F. in 4 hours	... ..	0.008	0.010
Total Solids dried at 100° C.		72	56
Apperance Bright Few Small Particles			
Hardness { Temporary	...	19.0	21.0
Permanent	...	32.0	13.0
		—	—
Total	...	51.0	34.0
Nitrite	... ..	Absent	Absent

(iii) None of the supplies is liable to plumbo-solvent action.

(iv) No action in respect of any form of contamination has been necessary.

(v) 1,650 houses out of a total of 4,685, comprising about one-third of the population, are supplied with water from the public mains. None is supplied by means of standpipes.

2. The Council has purchased an existing bore well at Shrewley, and propose to sink a bore at Rowington, so as to provide a piped water supply to the Western area of the rural district. This area, in parts, is very short of water, many wells in Hatton and Shrewley parishes are dry, or yield very little. Water has been carted by the Council twice weekly to certain houses in this "dry" area.

SHREWLEY BOREHOLE—ANALYSIS RESULTS

Free and Saline Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.0076
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	...	0.
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	...	1.7
Nitrogen in Nitrates and Nitrites	...	...	...	...	Absent
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate at 80°F.					
in 4 hours	...	...	...	...	0.002
Total Solids dried at 100°C.	...	...	...	...	.50
Nitrite	...	...	...	...	Absent
Hardness {	Temp.	13.0			
	Perm.	8.0			
Total		21.0			

Water Main.—The extension of the water mains from Bishops Tachbrook to Barford is completed, as is the link main between Radford and Whitnash Stations.

Drainage and Sewrage.—A number of new schemes are being prepared and work on the Bishops Tachbrook Scheme has been completed.

D. HOUSING

Full particulars of the usual tables have been compiled and are being kept for record purposes.

1. *Overcrowding*.—There is little to add to my last report. Overcrowding has, however, abated slightly.

2. The following table shows the first instalment of the Housing Programme, prepared in 1945, together with the progress up to December 1949, shown in the last column.

	<i>T.</i>	<i>S.</i>	<i>P.</i>	Completed
Bishops Tachbrook	10	—	76	26
Whitnash ...	10	—	40	26
Radford Semele ...	10	4	72	20
Offchurch ...	—	—	16	—
Hunningham ...	—	—	18	—
Eathorpe ...	—	—	8	—
Weston-under- Weatherley ...	—	—	8	—
Cubbington ...	10	—	103	16
Baginton ...	—	—	24	—
Stoneleigh ...	—	2	36	2
Ashow ...	—	—	4	—
Old Milverton ...	—	—	6	—
Leek Wootton ...	—	—	22	—
Wasperton, Barford and Sherbourne	—	—	52	—
Norton Lindsey ...	—	—	8	—
Budbrooke ...	—	—	18	—
Hatton ...	—	—	30	—
Shrewley ...	—	2	8	2
Lowsonford ...	—	2	15	10
Rowington ...	—	—	20	—
Lapworth ...	—	—	16	—
			12	—
Baddesley Clinton	—	—	8	4
Beausale ...	—	—	12	12
	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	40	12	632	118
	—	—	—	—

T. Temporary. *S.* Swedish. *P.* Permanent.

3. *Fitness of Houses*.—The general conditions of many houses is on the poor side. Many condemned cottages are still occupied and will need to be occupied for some time yet, but more repairs have been carried out this year than for several past years.

4. *Temporary Dwellings*.—The temporary hutments, many erected during the war as shelters, are still with us, and unfortunately, have to serve as dwellings. It is hoped that the time is not too far distant when these structures can be removed and the occupants properly housed.

E. INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

This is dealt with in the report of the Sanitary Inspector.

F. PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Incidence of Commoner Infectious Diseases since 1942.

		Smallpox	Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Enteric Fever.	Pneumonia.	Encephalitis Lethargica.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1942	...	—	11	13	—	17	—	—
1943	...	—	16	19	—	22	—	1
1944	...	—	8	30	—	9	—	—
1945	...	—	9	48	—	13	—	1
1946	...	—	5	16	—	6	—	2
1947	...	—	7	23	1	4	—	—
1948	...	—	—	24	1	5	—	1
1949	...	—	3	18	—	6	—	1

Reference to Table III will give the age distribution of the cases notified during 1949.

Scarlet Fever.—The 18 cases notified were well distributed throughout the district.

Diphtheria.—3 cases notified.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—During the year immunisation of the school children continued, and up to December 31st, 1,665 children between 5 and 15 years had been treated, also 1,272 under 5 years, a total of 2,937. In addition 305 children received booster doses.

Dysentery.—There were a large number of cases of Dysentery (Sonne) at the Central Hospital.

School Closures.—Nil.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, TUBERCULOSIS.

Age-Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 ...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
1-5 ...	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
5-10 ...	1	1	1	2	—	—	—	—
10-15 ...	2	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
15-20 ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20-25 ...	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—
25-35 ...	3	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
35-45 ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45-55 ...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55-65 ...	1	1	—	—	3	—	—	—
65 & upwards	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	12	5	5	4	4	1	—	1

The following table shows the incidence of Tuberculosis in the Warwick Rural District during the past 20 years :—

TUBERCULOSIS

	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936
Cases ...	9	10	16	14	8	11	20
Deaths ...	6	5	6	7	3	3	7
	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Cases ...	20	22	23	18	27	12	22
Deaths ...	6	7	4	3	6	2	4
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	
Cases ...	11	26	19	22	22	26	
Deaths ...	4	4	7	7	6	6	

During the year 26 cases of tuberculosis have been notified, 17 of which were of pulmonary and 9 of other forms of tuberculosis.

Sanatorium.—During the year 6 patients were admitted to the Sanatorium, and 6 were discharged.

REPORT OF THE SENIOR SANITARY INSPECTOR

MR. CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending December, 1949.

Public Cleansing.

This service now covers, with the exception of farms and isolated premises, the whole of the district. The "Isolated premises" are, however, considerable in number, and there is strong pressure from time to time for extra houses to be included. The collection of dry refuse is once per fortnight, carried out by means of four machine-driven refuse collection vehicles with a staff of 19 men. One of the older vehicles is kept as a reserve, and for occasional work. A ten cwt van is provided for the foreman, who also does occasional light transport work for other departments.

Paper Salvage collection has now practically ceased, as it would appear that demand has fallen very considerably. The Council may be said to have retired from Salvage in a blaze of publicity, as they had the unique experience in the same month of receiving a salvage prize of £250, and giving instructions for separate salvage collections to cease.

The prize was given by the Waste Paper Recovery Association in a National Contest for increases in collections over a period of six months, the Council's increase being 99%.

The collection of nightsoil is once per week, and cesspools are emptied upon request. There are two machines and a staff of five men. One machine is used mostly for nightsoil collection, the other chiefly for the emptying of cesspools and maintenance work at the Council's small disposal works, but both machines are used for nightsoil collection and cesspool emptying.

Inspection and Supervision of Food Premises.

Routine inspections have been made to food premises, including shops and canteens. Visits have been made in connection with emergency slaughter, and a small quantity of food has been surrendered as set out in Table I.

Milk and Dairies.

Routine inspections were made to cowsheds and dairies, and five applications for registration under the Milk and Dairies Order were granted.

On October 1, 1950, the Government implemented the policy defined in the White Paper "Measures to Improve the Quality of the Nation's Milk Supply (July, 1943). The Ministry of Agriculture assumed responsibility for the supervision of Milk production, and Local Authorities have retained duties and responsibilities in connection with the sale, distribution, and control of infection, of milk.

Temporary Housing.

The "Squatters' " camps are still with us but as a result of alterations and repairs carried out by the Council the huts have been improved. Finham Hostel has been taken over by the Council, and when the necessary adaptations, alterations and repairs are finished, there should be accommodation for about 75 families.

There are still a number of temporary buildings, most of them legacies from the war years, and there are a number of condemned cottages, now in such a ruinous condition as to be only capable of affording temporary shelter for a very limited period. Some of them have been classified as "dangerous buildings," and it is hoped that some action can be taken before next winter.

Sanitary Services.

The following schemes have been (or are being) prepared :—

The Western Area Water.
Barford and Sherbourne Sewage.
Baginton Sewage.
Cubbington Sewage.

Since the last report the Barford Water Supply and Bishops Tachbrook Sewage Schemes have been completed, as has the link main between Radford and Whitnash Pumping Stations, and Public Enquiries have been held in connection with Barford and Cubbington. Owing to the water shortage in the Western area the Council continue to cart water twice weekly. The work is now done by direct labour, no charge is made to the recipients, but it is an expensive way of supplying water.

Sewage Schemes.

It is expected that the Cubbington Scheme will commence during 1950.

Progress in new housing schemes is shown in the Table in Section D.

Rodent Control.

A Rodent Operative has been employed throughout the year, and as a result of his activities the rat population has been kept down. He spends approximately half his time in prospecting for infestations and the remainder in destruction. All refuse tips receive regular attention. No charge is made to householders for his services, but commercial and business firms are charged. The worst infestation found was at Baginton on tips controlled by Coventry Corporation.

Yours faithfully,

E. A. LYNE,

Senior Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE I.
WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.
SUMMARY OF SANITARY WORK DONE IN THE SANITARY INSPECTOR'S
DEPARTMENT DURING THE YEAR 1949.

	Inspections and observations made.	Notices served.		Nuisances abated after notice.
		Statu- tory.	In- formal.	
Dwelling Houses and Schools ...	471	19	215	191
Dairies, Milkshops and Cowsheds ...	79	—	25	19
Bakehouses	2	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses and Butchers' Shops	5	—	—	—
Ashpits and privies	62	—	—	—
Food Preparation Premises ...	46	—	—	—
Ashbins substituted for Ashpits ...	36	—	—	—
Deposits of Refuse and Manure ...	67	—	40	40
Water Closets	12	—	—	—
House Drainage	124	—	43	37
Water Supply	204	—	160	98
Pigsties	10	—	—	—
Offensive Trades	—	—	—	—
Smoke Nuisances	—	—	—	—
Factories	15	—	4	4
Shops	20	—	—	—
TOTALS	1253	19	487	389

Seizures and Surrenders of Unwholesome Food :—

Canned Goods	94 tins
Fats	13 lbs.
Eggs	72 doz.
Dried Food	150 lbs.
Samples of Water taken for analysis ...	66
Samples of Water condemned as unfit for use ...	17
Houses Disinfected after Infectious Disease ...	15

E. ARTHUR LYNE, Sanitary Inspector.

TABLE II.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

VITAL STATISTICS OF WHOLE DISTRICT DURING 1949 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

YEAR.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year.	BIRTHS.		NETT DEATHS BELONGING TO THE DISTRICT.			
		Nett.		Under 1 Year of age.		At all Ages.	
		Number.	Rate.	Number.	Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	Number.	Rate.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
1943	18,600	260	14.0	11	41	156	8.4
1944	19,120	311	16.3	9	29	140	7.3
1945	17,850	241	13.5	15	62	164	9.2
1946	17,800	263	14.8	16	61	169	9.5
1947	18,280	296	16.2	11	37	201	11.0
1948	19,730	285	14.5	7	25	155	7.9
1949	19,420	265	13.6	15	57	184	9.5

VITAL STATISTICS IN ENGLAND AND WALES, 1949.

ENGLAND AND WALES.

*Birth-rate, Death-rate, and Infantile Mortality during the Year 1949.
(Provisional Figures).*

Annual Rate per 1,000 Population.

			Live Births	Still Births.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Deaths.	Deaths under one year to 1,000 Births.
England and Wales	...	...	16.7	0.39	11.7	32
126 Great Towns, including London			18.7	0.47	12.5	37
148 Smaller Towns	...	...	18.0	0.40	11.6	30
London	...	...	18.5	0.37	12.2	29

TABLE III.

WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR
1949.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	Number of Cases notified.								Total cases removed to Hospital	Total Deaths.
	At all Ages.	At Ages—Years.								
		Under 1.	1 to 5.	5 to 15.	15 to 25.	25 to 45.	45 to 65.	65 and upwards.		
Small-pox										
Plague										
Diphtheria (including Mem- branous Croup)	3			2	1				3	
Erysipelas										
Scarlet Fever	18		4	12		2			9	
Typhus Fever										
Enteric Fever	2					1	1			
Pneumonia	6					2	2	2		7
Malaria										
Dysentery	159			1	10	40	61	47		
Puerperal Pyrexia	1					1			1	
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis										
Poliomyelitis *	2			2						
Encephalitis Lethargica										
Ophthalmia Neonatorum										
Polio-Encephalitis	1			1						
Pulmonary Tuberculosis ...	17		1	4	1	5	4	2		5
Other forms of Tuberculosis	9		3	4		2				1
Totals	218	—	8	26	12	53	68	51	13	13

TABLE IV.
WARWICK RURAL DISTRICT.

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING THE YEAR 1949.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	MALES.	FEMALES.
All Causes	90	94
1 Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—
2 Cerebro Spinal Fever	—	—
3 Scarlet Fever	—	—
4 Whooping Cough	—	—
5 Diphtheria	—	—
6 Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	4	1
7 Other Forms of Tuberculosis	—	1
8 Syphilitic Diseases	—	1
9 Influenza	—	1
10 Measles	—	—
11 Ac. Polio-Myel and Polio-Enceph. ...	—	—
12 Ac. Infant Enceph.	—	—
13 Cancer of Buccal Cav. and Oesoph (M.) Uterus (F.)	3	1
14 Cancer of Stomach and Duod.	2	3
15 Cancer of Breast	—	4
16 Cancer, other Sites	4	9
17 Diabetes	—	1
18 Intra Cran. Vasc. Lesions... ..	6	12
19 Heart Disease	30	31
20 Other Dis. Circ. Sys.	5	4
21 Bronchitis	5	5
22 Pneumonia	4	3
23 Other Resp. Diseases	1	—
24 Ulcer of Stomach and Duod.	3	—
25 Diarrhoea (under 2 years)... ..	—	—
26 Appendicitis	—	—
27 Other Digestive Diseases	3	4
28 Nephritis	6	3
29 Puer. and Post Abort Sepsis	—	—
30 Other Maternal Causes	—	—
31 Premature Birth	3	2
32 Con. Mal., Birth Inj., etc.... ..	4	2
33 Suicide	—	—
34 Road Traffic Accidents	2	—
35 Other Violent Causes	1	3
36 All Other Causes	4	3

